

XIX.—On new Fishes from the Lower Congo.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

THE Trustees of the British Museum have recently acquired some fishes collected by M. F. Hens on the Lower Congo, among which are three undescribed species. In addition to these the three following are of interest as new to the fish-fauna of the Congo, or at least not recorded in Dr. Sauvage's recent list in Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1884, pp. 201, 202:—

Chromis Dumerilii, Std.; *Channallabes apus*, Gthr.; and *Polypterus palmas*, Ayres.

*Ctenopoma congicum.*D. 17/8. A. 11/10. L. lat. 27. L. tr. $\frac{3}{8}$.

The depth of the body is one third of the total length (without caudal), the length of the head three tenths. Diameter of the eye greater than the length of the snout, two sevenths the length of the head. Operculum terminating in two processes, the upper with four or five spines, the lower with one, separated by a non-serrated crescentic notch; suboperculum strongly serrated. Four series of scales between the orbit and the angle of the præoperculum. The soft rays of the vertical fins covered with small scales, the ctenoid character of which is strongly marked. The pectoral reaches to below the fourteenth perforated scale of the lateral line. Outer soft ray of the pectoral produced, filiform, extending to the base of the penultimate anal spine. Blackish brown, with light spots on the lower half of the body and on the tail.

Total length 70 millim.

Native name "Kouendé." Inhabits the lagunas in the islands of the Lower Congo, and is never found in the river itself (*F. Hens*).

Clarias melas.

D. 105. A. 88. P. 1/7.

Caudal fin united with dorsal and anal. Vomerine teeth villiform, forming a crescentic band, which in its middle is a little narrower than that of the præmaxillaries; the band of mandibular teeth is a little broader than that of the præmaxillaries and likewise composed of villiform teeth. Head finely rugose above, its length to the end of the occipital process one sixth of the total (without caudal); the height of the body one tenth. Occipital process acute. The width of the head

between the gill-openings is two thirds of its length (to the end of the occipital process), its width between the eyes three eighths. The nasal barbel extends to the gill-opening, the maxillary and the outer mandibular to the end of the pectoral spine. Pectoral very small, two fifths the length of the head; its spine strongly serrated on the inner edge, feebly on the outer, two thirds the length of the fin. Ventrals very small, in the anterior third of the total length. Uniform blackish brown.

Total length 260 millim.

A transition-form between *Clarias* and *Gymnallabes*.

Native name "Fouca." Lives in the lagunas and marshes of the Lower Congo; is often found in holes in the mud during the dry season. The species reaches twice the size of the type specimen (*F. Hens*).

Mormyrus (Petrocephalus) Sauvagii.

D. 29. A. 36. V. 6. L. lat. 40.

Snout very short, elevated, one sixth the length of the head, shorter than the diameter of the eye. Cleft of the mouth below the vertical from the front margin of the eye, its width two sevenths of the length of the head. Teeth comparatively large, dilated and notched, forming a complete series round the margin of both jaws. Diameter of the eye somewhat more than one fifth of the length of the head, three fourths the width of the interorbital space. The origin of the dorsal is equally distant from the occiput and the root of the caudal. The pectoral equals the distance between the eye and the gill-opening and extends a little beyond the base of the ventral, which is not quite one third as long as the head. The height of the body is contained thrice in the total length (without caudal), the length of the head thrice and two thirds. The length of the caudal peduncle (from the extremity of the base of the anal) equals three fifths the length of the head, or two thirds the length of the dorsal. Plumbeous, without any spots.

Total length 175 millim.

Allied to *M. bane*, Lacép., but easily distinguished by the still shorter snout, the larger mouth, and the stronger dentition.

Native name "Tembé." Found in the creeks of the Lower Congo and the tributary streams.

Named in honour of my friend Dr. H. E. Sauvage, who has added so much to our knowledge of the fishes of tropical Africa.